

The Committee on Finance, made another report to the Legislature on Saturday, March 2nd, which is as follows:

The legislative pay certificate was the fountain head and nursery of many of the frauds, forgeries and perjuries exposed in this report. Through this source the most grave and flagrant violations of law were committed, whereby the State was annually robbed of amounts ranging from two hundred thousand to one million dollars. Including fraudulent printing certificates, which were issued and divided between the officials—senators, members of the houses and political hangers-on of the Administration. To perpetuate the power and influence of the Republic, it was necessary to have a ready and unfailing resort to funds. No simpler or easier way suggested itself than the issuing of pay certificates by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. Thus it was that the Legislature, by its practice to perpetrate the numerous frauds in the public printing and supplies to which we have alluded referred. Indeed this, like the famous highway, threw out its hundred heads, encircling and poisoning every branch of the government, and giving comfort and support to its leaders. In its trail followed the low, despicable forgeries and perjuries necessary to effect the end proposed. It is not surprising that the poor and ignorant members of the Legislature, who were in these practices when they were deceived and brought forth by such adroit swindlers as those who led. This immense fund produced and maintained a Bond Ring, a Printing Ring and this Legislature Ring, which were the most popular and at the same time most successful. It is evident from the testimony that such a source of revenue as this was indispensable to silence any complaint and to pacify the fears of the timid and the greed of the avaricious, while the other great rings were in successful progress.

MONEY AND PATTERNS.

Among the many remarkable and famous leaders in this enterprise, without at all intending to disparage the claims of others, yet committee must mention the name of F. J. Moses, who issued and sold the money, who was the most successful of the ring. He was the one who sold the money as twin stars shedding a baleful "light" upon all who approached them. The evidence which we append will fully justify the conclusion which we reached, that the table of the committee, which we submitted with this report, shows, among other things, that in one session there was issued \$1,168,255 in pay certificates, every dollar of which was a robbery, except the two hundred thousand dollars due to the members of the Legislature. The House and regularly elected and appointed officers of the General Assembly. The evidence of more than one witness shows that it was a race between the Bond Ring and the Printing Ring, and the Legislature Ring, to see who should reach the most of the money raised by taxation and the sale of bonds. It was decided that the greatest good could be accomplished by distributing the money to the greatest number, and the members of the Legislature, who, therefore, became the beneficiaries. An unlimited number of certificates were issued on the written or verbal order of the printing officers and of the members of the Legislature. The evidence shows that "nearly every one who told a tale of distress from Ku-Kluxism or of suffering on account of their politics was given a pay certificate."

THE CONTINGENT FUND.

It is a well known fact that the contingent fund was used for the purchase of cigars, groceries, jewelry, and almost every conceivable article under the head of "Sundries," and large numbers of certificates were issued, ranging in amounts from one dollar to \$500 each. These were gratification certificates, which were resorted to as the best manner of harmonizing the "friends," as the leaders were then called. At one session at least two hundred and fifty thousand dollars were issued for the contingent fund, and when objections were made they were met by the reply that these were small matters, and the State does not suffer from them; that it was only a fight between the representatives of the people and the vultures of the Bond Ring.

THE INITIALS.

It appears from the evidence and a large number of certificates in the treasurer's office that the clerk often transcribed the initials of the names of the party receiving these fraudulent certificates.

WOODRUFF CONTINUES.

"The certificate drawn to the order of 'L. E. Christopher' for \$2,000, is one of this class, and was drawn by the Treasurer, J. B. Woodruff, in pursuance of a committee to Washington, in opposition to one sent by the Taxpayers' Convention." The taxpayers not only paid their own committee's expenses, but were made to pay that of the thieves who were sent to Washington to administer for more time and the protection of bayonets to enable them to keep up the role of robbers of the people. Senator R. F. Whitmore was the speaker and leading member of this committee. This was the only committee enough. Woodruff adds that this certificate was drawn on the order of Lieutenant Governor Gleaves, who said Cardozo would take care of it. The initials of C. J. Cardozo are on the certificate. This certificate was collected by ex-Gov. R. K. Scott, and bears the following endorsement in his handwriting: "Mr. Cardozo promises to pay this January 1st, 1875."

RAPACIOUS COMMITTEES.

Woodruff also says the certificate for \$2,600, payable to A. B. Jordan, was for James A. Bowley, chairman of the committee on ways and means in the House; another payable to J. M. Foreman, another to \$2,500, was for Gov. F. J. Moses, the largest sum ever paid in this way. Such certificates were usually ordered after a meeting and consultation of the presiding officers with the State treasurer and chairman of the committee. This was the case with the Gleaves Committee. Thus it will be seen that the chairman of the most important committees joined in a conspiracy with others to defraud the State. He further says that certificates payable to A. B. Jordan, and to J. C. Hayne, T. C. Andrews, one to D. C. Higby represented Senator C. D. Hayne. When the witness (Woodruff) was shown the following certificate he stated that the paper is a forgery of the Treasurer, J. B. Woodruff, and that the certificate was drawn in accordance with these instructions:

RUNDY STEALING.

Amount Demanded. Amount Collected.

A. B. Jordan	\$2,600	\$2,600
J. M. Foreman	\$2,500	\$2,500
F. J. Moses	\$2,500	\$2,500
J. C. Hayne	\$2,500	\$2,500
T. C. Andrews	\$2,500	\$2,500
D. C. Higby	\$2,500	\$2,500
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